



Center for Educational Performance and Information

News You Can Use

January 2002

*Brought to you monthly by the External Affairs Office of the Center for Educational Performance and Information.**

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Detroit Free Press Commends Center

The **Detroit Free Press** commended the Center for Educational Performance and Information (the Center) in an editorial published January 2, 2002. The Free Press editorial, titled "Smarten Up: Tests, accreditation need to be more realistic," said that "[T]he state's Center for Educational Performance and Information, a temporary division set up to integrate school data, may be the real prize. By assigning a tracking number to each student (a reference to the Single Record Student Database or SRSD), it will eventually be able to do analysis that makes a difference – including whether kids learn a year's worth in a year's time."

Confidentiality of Records Protected

Federal law protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information in all of the data sets in the Michigan Education Information System (MEIS), says Madhu Anderson, Center director. The use of information from the SRSD, one of the core data sets in the MEIS, has been proposed to provide support for the Michigan Department of Education's new accreditation system. "Data identifying individual students and teachers by name will not be released by the Center. We are specifically prohibited by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from doing so," says Anderson. More information on this topic is available on the Center's Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/cepi> under "Single Record Student Database" in the Frequently Asked Questions section.

S & P Releases *Statewide Insights*

Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services (SES) released *Statewide Insights*, its first annual report on public education in Michigan, at a briefing December 13, 2001, hosted by the Center for state legislators and members of the Michigan SES Advisory Group. You can link to an executive summary and complete report on the SES Web site directly from the Center's Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/cepi>.

Statewide SRSD/REP Workshops Held

Center staff will travel statewide in January and early February to present a series of workshops to familiarize data entry staff with data fields in the Single Record Student Database (SRSD) and the Registry of Educational Personnel (REP). A complete listing of the workshops and registration information can be found on the Center's Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/cepi> in the Data Services section. To date, seven workshops at various locations are scheduled. Due to the overwhelming response, additional workshops are being considered. Please keep checking the Data Services section of the Center's Web site for new developments.

MEIS Database E-Mails

Please include the prefix "CEPI" when sending e-mails to MEIS database administrators:

CEPI-SRSD@michigan.gov

Single Record Student Database

CEPI-REP@michigan.gov

Registry of Educational Personnel

CEPI-FID@michigan.gov

Financial Information Database

CEPI-SID@michigan.gov

School Infrastructure Database

CEPI-SCM@michigan.gov

School Code Master

CEPI-SAID@michigan.gov

Student Assessment Information Database

Questions? Comments? Please contact the External Affairs Office at cepi@michigan.gov or (517) 373-4237.

* The Center is the state agency that collects, analyzes, and reports statistical data on Michigan's public schools and students.